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through two generations, has been settled at The Hague. The Passamaquoddy Bay dispute has been arbitrated, and the seal fisheries disputes between our country, Great Britain, Japan, and Russia have at last been settled without a hint of arms. Three tantalizing cases have been satisfactorily settled with Venezuela. A boundary dispute between our country and Mexico has been referred to a commission. A treaty of arbitration covering ancient pecuniary claims between the United States and Great Britain has been ratified. The Taft administration has been indefatigable in promoting the International Court of Prize and the International Court of Arbitral Justice, the former a supreme court of war and the latter a supreme court of peace, both of which are all but established.

In addition, there are the well-known arbitration treaties, one with Great Britain and the other with France, signed August 3, 1911. President Taft proposed these treaties in the fall of 1910 as an example to all nations. They were drawn with the coöperation of Ambassadors Bryce and Jusserand. The President pleaded for them in thirty different States. They were enthusiastically endorsed abroad. They represented the high-water mark of the statecraft of a generation. They were emasculated and passed by a quibbling United States Senate. They will yet be passed in substantially their original form, for of such is the kingdom of heaven. From the standpoint of international relations, President William Howard Taft seems to us to be a progressive of the progressives.

### End of the War in Tripoli.

The war between Italy and Turkey is over. Everybody is glad of it. It ought never to have been. No other war of modern times has been so universally condemned by the public conscience as unjust and entirely without reason. It has been openly and justly denounced as an act of pure national brigandage. Italy has lowered herself by it before the whole civilized world. That she has measurably succeeded and wrested from Turkey sovereignty over the region fought for does not in the least change the moral character of her conquest. There is no right of conquest, never has been, and never will be. Conquest belongs to the realm of senseless brute force. It follows the law of might, not of right, and ought to disappear forever from the relations of nations.

The evils of the war have been many. It has had, as every war has, its share of cruelty and savagery on the battlefield. It has pressed the air itself into the service of inhumanity and promiscuous slaughter. It has taken the lives of many men in cold blood. It has cost the Italian government not less than two hundred

million dollars, which must be paid by the toil and suffering of the people, already nearly crushed with taxes and in parts of the country half starving. It has laid up new hatreds and enmities for the future. It has been altogether a melancholy spectacle in the midst of our boasted Christian civilization, and the only good thing about it is its end. In that let us all rejoice, and let us "highly resolve" that, so far as our little influence can effect anything, no such phenomenon shall ever again be witnessed in the relations of races and states.

The treaty of peace was signed by the Italian and Turkish commissioners at Ouchy, Switzerland, on the 18th of October. Whether the terms of agreement are such as will insure peace between the two peoples for the future, time only can determine. Sovereignty over Tripoli and Cyrenaica is ceded by Turkey to Italy. In return Italy is to pay to Turkey an annual indemnity equivalent to the tribute which goes into the Turkish treasury from Tripoli. The Turkish troops and garrisons are to be withdrawn from Tripoli. Italy agrees to evacuate the islands which she has taken in the Ægean Sea on condition that the Porte grants civil and religious liberty to its Christian inhabitants. The Sultan is to retain his spiritual headship over the Mohammedan inhabitants of Libya.

### The Balkan War.

It ought not to surprise any one that war has at last broken out between the Balkan states and Turkey. The real wonder is that the conflict did not come many years ago. The most ardent advocate of peace does not expect that war can be avoided where injustice and tyranny in their worst forms are practiced systematically and continued over long periods of time.

But the appeal to the sword is always an uncertain one. It is impossible to say at the present moment whether the course which the Balkan states have taken will leave their condition better or worse. History tells a very pathetic story in matters of this kind. In a contest of brute force it is always the stronger, all things considered, who wins. The Turkish army has always been a terrible fighting machine, and it is difficult to conceive of its being finally defeated and driven from the field by the forces which the small allied states can bring against it.

But even if they should win, it is an infinite pity that war should have been the instrument. All accounts indicate that the fighting is swift and terrible, and that the losses are unusually heavy. Large numbers of the strongest and physically best men of the Balkan states will be slain, and even if they should come out victorious, these peoples will begin their struggle after-